Advisory Council regarding strengthening of the public distribution system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Council recommended an increase in the subsidy from 25 percent to 50 percent to purchase mobile vans for distribution; and

(c) what action is proposed on this recommended increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A Statement giving the conclusions arrived at the 14th meeting of Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) is given in the enclosed statement (see below)

(b) and (c) The Central Government has increased the subsidy portion from 25% to 50% and reduced the loan portion from 75% to 50% on the assistance provided for purchase of vans to be used as mobile fair price shops or door delivery vehicles. The assistance is limited to Rs. 4.00 lakhs per vehicle. An announcement to this effect was made at the 14th meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS.

Statment

Conclusions at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held on 27.7.92

1. Almost all the States expressed the view that the benefits of PDS should be made available only to the needy and deserving sections of the population and requested that a National Policy in this regard should be evolved.
2. Adequate allocations of PDS commodities, especially rice and wheat will be maintained by the States to the areas identified for implementing the Revamped PDS.
3. Focussed attention will be maintained on the off-take and actual delivery of PDS commodities, especially rice and wheat to the areas identified for implementing the Revamped PDS.
4. The end retail prices of wheat and rice in the identified areas shall be maintained uniformly throughout the country not exceeding the specially subsidised Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice by 25 paise per kg.
5. In regard to the work relating to the opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards, Constitution of Vigilance Committees, identification of sites for godowns and elimination of ghost cards, States/UTs who have not completed the work so far, will do so by the end of August, 1992.
6. In future, while revising prices, Government of India may take care to fix prices rounded of to the nearest five paise so that the consumers are not handicapped.
7. The End Retail Price of levy sugar under the PDS should be rounded off to Rs. 7.00 per kg, as against the present price of Rs. 6.90 per kg. The increase should go to the Retailer as margin.
8. The allocations of SKO are grossly inadequate and need to be augmented.

Carrying on business of fair price shops and kerosene oil depot

3617. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is obligatory to take a licence from the Civic bodies in Delhi to carry on any type of business including fair price shop kerosene oil depot, dealership in edible oils;

(b) if so, the reasons why large number of edible oil licence holders have been granted licences by Delhi Administration without production of licences issued by civic bodies on non-conforming areas;

(c) the details of the revenue lost by the civic bodies on the account; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) It has been reported by Delhi Administration that relevant Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act for grant of licences to persons for running fair price shops and kerosene oil depots and to edible oil dealers do not impose any pre-condition of obtaining licence from civic bodies. A person whould have to independently satisfy the requirement of civic laws, if any so prescribed, for obtaining a licence. The Department insists upon a municipal factory licence, if any applicant seeks a producers' licence in Urban Areas of Delhi for units producing/manufacturing pulses and edible oils. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi gives licence to Traders as prescribed in the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. The Corporation does not grant licence in non-conforming areas except adhoc licence under adhoc policy.

Bogus ration cards in Delhi

3618. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bogus ration cards in Delhi; whether they are in use in various fair price shops of Delhi;

(b) what steps have been taken by administration to destroy and whether there is any plan to open new fair price shops in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) By the very nature of the problem, it is difficult to have a precise estimate of the number of bogus cards. Delhi Administration has reported that there are some inflated cereal and sugar units on the ration cards. Verification and elimination of bogus cards/units is done by the officials of the Delhi Administration, who regularly undertake surprise checks in this regard. Powers have been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations including Delhi Administration under the Essential Commodities Act. A special drive was undertaken for elimination of inflated units. During the last seven months about 2.18 lakhs (sugar) units have been deleted by Delhi Administration.

Decisions relating to the opening of fair price shops is taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations, including Union Territory Administrations of Delhi, taken into account the overall need of the population and the viability of running the fair price shop etc.

Monitoring the prices of certain commodities

3619. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the commodities whose prices are being monitored by Government;

(b) what are the prices of these commodities at present;

(c) the manner in which these prices compare with those in 1990 and 1991; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stabilise increase in the prices of these essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The commodities whose prices being monitored by the Ministry of Civil